

# **Silverbell Road Task Force**

## **Wednesday, November 4, 2009**

### **Summary of Meeting #1**

The first meeting of the Silverbell Road Task Force (SRTF) took place from 5:35 to 7:10 pm at the Silverbell Golf Course Clubhouse, 3600 North Silverbell Road. In attendance were all members of the Task Force: Robert De La Cerda, Kendall Elmer, Sandy Fagan, Judith Meyer, Barbara Whitaker, Midge Hardy, Frank Stryker, Bradley Lang, Wain Cooper, Michael Mencinger, Angela Wagner-Gabbard, Julie Prince, Gale Marsland, Josh Wright and Hurvie Davis. Also present were Andy Dinauer, Project Manager for the City of Tucson, Jim Schoen, Project Manager for the Kittleson consultant team, Jason Simmers (Kittleson), Nanette Pageau and Evelyn Urrea (Kaneen Advertising), Freda Johnson (Rillito Consulting Group) and Britton Dornquast (RTA Main Street Program).

#### **1. Call Meeting to Order – Confirm Quorum**

Freda Johnson, meeting moderator, welcomed everyone and announced that a quorum was present. She said that her role is to be a neutral facilitator for meetings of the task force, make sure that everyone is heard and keep the meeting on schedule.

#### **2. Introductions of SRTF Members and Project Team**

Members of the Task Force introduced themselves and told about their affiliations and interests. Project Team members Andy Dinauer and Jim Schoen introduced themselves as well. Freda Johnson announced that at the next meeting a representative from the Tucson City Clerk's office would be present to explain the Open Meeting Law under which Task Force meetings would operate. In addition, she said that a Chair and Vice Chair for the Task Force could be elected. She reminded everyone that her role as moderator would allow officers of the Task Force to participate fully in discussions. She said that a list of Task Force members with contact information (address, phone, e-mail) was circulating and members were invited to cross out any contact information that they did not wish to release publicly at meetings and on the project web site.

#### **3. Establish Ground Rules for Task Force Meetings**

Freda introduced this item by saying that the objective is to identify ground rules by which Task Force meetings would be run. She said they would not be her suggestions but should come from the group. People made suggestions that were written down on poster paper and, by general agreement, the ground rules were accepted:

- One person speaks at a time after being recognized by chair/moderator
- Treat one another with respect
- Maintain order of agenda
- Give notice if one is going to be late or absent

- Everyone provides input
- No ad hominem attacks - go for issues, not people

#### 4. Staff Reports and Presentations to SRTF

SRTF Roles and Responsibilities  
 Project Overview and Timeline  
 Update on Tasks to Date

Jim Schoen gave information about the project scope in a power point presentation. During this, he referred the Task Force members to their project notebooks, which included a fact sheet about the project and a proposal for the Task Force to operate by consensus decision-making. Subsequently, it was agreed by staff to provide a copy of this presentation to Task Force members. Jim invited comments and questions following his presentation about the Task Force role and responsibilities. Brad Lang asked if it was true that the Task Force can express opinions but agencies will make decisions. Jim Schoen said that what we collectively agree on would be moved forward in the Design Concept Report. Andy Dinauer said that Task Force recommendations would be documented untouched by staff. It was also said that there are standards for the roadway and safety considerations that will need to be addressed. Barbara Whitaker spoke in favor of desert colors being used in any concrete structures and that she was concerned this might be costly. Andy said that colored concrete can be cost effective in drainage structures and he also acknowledged that there are unique challenges in this project. In response to other questions, Andy said that experts would be brought in to inform the Task Force. Examples are drainage and archaeology. Jim said that cost evaluations would be presented on alternatives as we proceed.

Discussion continued with a request that equestrian users and access be made part of the givens in this project. The total budget was announced as \$57 million. Angela Wagner-Gabbard asked if construction would be done in segments and how would the budget be handled if the northern half of the project doesn't occur until 2022. Andy said that his best guess is to split the project in half and set aside funding for the northern segment. He said that the \$57 million figure was an estimate by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) based on per mile costs. In response to a question from Josh Wright, Andy clarified that the Task Force could make recommendations on a policy level and on what the second half of the project would include. Brad Lang said he is interested in knowing what the plan is to preserve the Camino del Cerro bridge crossing and if it's possible to divert some traffic to Camino del Cerro. Andy acknowledged that there is much activity in that portion of the corridor. He said that the design flow volume for the Santa Cruz River has increased and that bank stabilization is possible. He said that Arizona Department of Transportation is working on the interchange of Prince and Interstate 10 and that it is planned that cross streets, including Ruthrauff Road, Prince Road, and Ina Road will go over both I-10 and the UPRR. Hurvie Davis suggested that the 'givens' slide in the power point presentation should be modified to include the Sunset Bridge connection in Phase 3. Andy advised that phasing of all RTA projects is being evaluated. Any corridors connecting to Silverbell are open for discussion. Jim said

that there would probably be a public process for evaluation of the Sunset Bridge. Hurvie Davis asked what the land use patterns were based on, i.e. on current zoning or general plans of each of the jurisdictions. Jim said that traffic projections were based on the PAG regional travel demand model which utilizes the existing zoning to determine the amount of traffic that will be generated. Hurvie also asked about the design concept and if it had a specific speed limit associated with it and what those speed limits are based on. Jim said that the alignment of the roadway reflects the safety required for that design speed. The lower the design speed, the greater curves you can have on the roadway.

Frank Stryker observed that going north on Silverbell, the utilities are on the west side of the roadway and since the City of Tucson and the Town of Marana own land on the east side, why not move the road over to the east. Andy acknowledged that this is a possibility. Midge Hardy commented that her business, which is on Silverbell, would be greatly affected if the roadway is more to the west.

Staff agreed to provide copies of the power point by e-mail to the Task Force and be put on the project web site for the general public. In general, Jim Schoen committed to providing information to the Task Force two weeks ahead of meetings. Sandy Fagan pointed out that there is open space on the west side of the roadway and that it is important to preserve this.

## 5. Next Steps

### Items for Future Meetings Future Meeting Dates

Jim Schoen identified drainage and flood plain alignments as topics to be addressed at the next meeting. He said that monthly meetings are anticipated. Angela Wagner-Gabbard said that 6 pm would be a better start time for her and others agreed to this. It was also agreed to end meetings promptly at 7:30 pm. Frank Stryker asked if it would be appropriate to have subcommittees. Andy said that he didn't know but it might be reasonable to consider. Julie Prince said she is interested in the topic of gutter pans that are an obstacle to cyclists. For future agendas, Freda said that a section on 'announcements' would be added.

By general agreement, future meetings would be held on the first Wednesday of the month and the next meeting was confirmed to take place from 6-7:30 pm on Wednesday, December 2, 2009.

## 6. Call to the Audience

Freda asked for a show of hands from the audience as to who would like to address the Task Force. She reminded everyone that under the Open Meetings Law, response may not be made to any speaker by either staff or the Task Force. Three people indicated interest in addressing the Task Force.

A. Julian Hadland asked when the survey on traffic density had been done in relationship to the I-10 construction.

B. Cindy Davis of Sweetwater Reserve commented that she was very impressed with the efforts of everyone involved with the project. Additionally, she asked that they look at the skewed intersections and hopefully improve the design.

C. Jeannette Hanby of Milagro asked the Task Force to consider alternate modes with this project because many people walk, bike, ride horses. Also, she hoped a bus system would be included that would not impede alternate modes and that possibly a tunnel would be considered for the wildlife crossings.

## 7. Adjournment

By general agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.